

**Robert Rutherford to George Washington, July 31, 1758,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM ROBERT RUTHERFORD, ESQ.**

WINCHESTER 31st. of July 1758

DEAR SIR

I Re~cd your kind favour of the 29th. in a Large Packet, the other Letters therein Contained, I have given mostly with my own hand, and shall take Particular Care that the remainder be delivered Punctually, also to make known to your friends in genl. how deeply you are Possess'd of Gratitude<sup>1</sup> —

Too Sensible of your Good intentions towards my Self and Company as well towards the whole of the Distressed frontier Inhabitants, which has been clearly manifested in every of your actions; it was with the greatest reluctancy, that I urged you further on the Subject, as I was truly Conscious that nothing in your Power wou'd be wanting for the Common Good, but when you Consider the Strong incitements I had for so doing, I hope you will be good Enough to Pardon it in me —

I am Sincerely touch'd to find my Doubts of an inglorious Campaign, (or an attempt of a Campaign) So greatly increased by the Most immoderate delays which Seem to attend it — I fear Our Country has Lavished a Large Sum for Little or no Purpose — in short, there Appears so great an infatuation throughout the whole, that I have realy almost Lost hope of a Person's either gaining Credit or giving Sattisfaction: for even this new man at the

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Helm, Seems to be already Prepossess'd and Certainly entertains the most inconsistent notion of the Frontiers, that ever enter'd the Mind of Man<sup>2</sup> — I am indeed Oblig'd to Say that it would give me Real Pleasure to See you enjoy your Estate in a Private Capacity; Since I See no other Prospect, than, that, of your noble and greatly Laudable design (in taking on you the Toilsom Post you now hold) at Last Baffled and all your Zealous Efforts Prove fruitless — May the Power infinite direct you for the best and Protect you is the ardent wish of

Dear Sir your Most obedt. Hble Servt. R. RUTHERFORD

1 See Washington's letters to Gabriel Jones and to Colonel James Wood, Writings of Washington, Ford, vol. ii. pp. 58, 59.

2 Washington, as well as all in correspondence with him, appears at this time to have been greatly discouraged over the delay attending the expedition. As the season advanced this feeling increased, until even General Forbes himself despaired of reaching Fort Du Quesne in season. On the 22th of November a council was held at Loyal Hannon, over which the general presided, where it was decided that, on account of the lateness and severity of the season, it would not be expedient to proceed farther during this campaign. Information of the indefensible condition of Fort Du Quesne, brought in camp by three prisoners on the 23th, however, entirely changed their plans. On the 25th of November they set out, opening the road as they went. They arrived on the 23th, to find the fort, of which they took possession, destroyed by fire and deserted by the enemy. Washington, writing on the 28th to Governor Fauquier, says: "The enemy, after letting us get within a day's march of the place, burned the fort, and ran away (by the light of it) at night, going down the Ohio by water, to the number of about 500 men — from our best information."